

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner comprising:

a binder resin comprising a urea-modified polyester resin; and

a colorant master batch comprising:

a colorant;

a resin; and

a pigment dispersant,

wherein the toner is prepared by a method comprising:

dissolving or dispersing toner compositions comprising a modified polyester resin capable of being the urea-modified polyester resin and the colorant master batch in an organic solvent to prepare a liquid;

dispersing the liquid in an aqueous medium comprising resin fine particles while reacting the ~~urea~~-modified polyester resin with at least one of a crosslinker and an elongation agent to prepare particles of urea-modified polyester resin; and

washing the particles after removing the organic solvent therefrom.

Claim 2 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein a content of the pigment dispersant is 1 to 30 % by weight based on total weight of the colorant.

Claim 3 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the colorant master batch further comprises a pigment dispersion auxiliary agent.

Claim 4 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the colorant has a number-average particle diameter not greater than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein a ratio of particles of the colorant

having a number-average particle diameter not less than 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  is not greater than 5 % by number.

Claim 5 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the toner compositions further comprises an unmodified polyester resin, and wherein a weight ratio (i/ii) between the modified polyester resin (i) and unmodified polyester resin (ii) is from 5/95 to 25/75.

Claim 6 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, further comprising a wax.

Claim 7 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the toner has a glass transition temperature of from 40 to 70  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Claim 8 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the toner has a volume-average particle diameter of from 4 to 8  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein a ratio ( $D_v/D_n$ ) between the volume-average particle diameter ( $D_v$ ) and a number-average particle diameter ( $D_n$ ) of the toner is not greater than 1.25.

Claim 9 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the toner has an average circularity of from 0.94 to 1.00.

Claim 10 (Original): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the resin fine particles have an average particle diameter of from 5 to 500 nm.

Claim 11 (Original): A developer comprising the toner according to Claim 1.

Claim 12 (Original): An imaging forming method comprising:

- charging a photoreceptor;
- irradiating the photoreceptor to form an electrostatic latent image thereon;
- developing the electrostatic latent image with a toner according to Claim 1 to form a toner image on the photoreceptor;
- transferring the toner image onto a transfer sheet; and
- fixing the toner image on the transfer sheet.

Claim 13 (Original): A toner container containing the toner according to Claim 1.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

- a charger configured to charge a photoreceptor;
- an irradiator configured to irradiate the photoreceptor to form an electrostatic latent image thereon;
- ~~an image developer for developing the electrostatic latent image with a~~ comprising the toner according to Claim 1 ~~to form a toner image on the photoreceptor;~~
- a transferor configured to transfer the toner image onto a transfer sheet; and
- a fixer configured to fix the toner image on the transfer sheet.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A detachable process cartridge with an image forming apparatus comprising:

- a photoreceptor; and
- a member selected from the group consisting of chargers, and cleaners,
- ~~wherein the and an image developers comprise a~~ developer comprising the toner according to claim 1.

Claim 16 (New): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the master batch is prepared by kneading a colorant, a resin and a pigment dispersant.

Claim 17 (New): The toner of Claim 1, wherein the pigment dispersant is a polymer dispersant.